

Prometheus Press

Dec.
2021

Wacky Wifi?
The Death of Clubs?
Lit Literature?
Art, Poems and
More!

Greenfield
Community
College

The Mysterious Chainsmoker

By Zac Poulin

an irrelevant introduction

I began delivering pizza for Primo Too in Amherst a little over a year ago. As you can imagine, I see my fair share of odd humans in the shop and throughout the streets. This Summer, when the convenience store directly adjacent to Primo Too changed hands, a new character emerged. The Mysterious Chainsmoker. I see him once every week or two, standing in the parking lot, scarfing down smokes like his life depended on it. I have always been intrigued by him, yet I have never worked up the courage to strike up a conversation.

My five hour shift begins at 5 o'clock, and by the time I get there, the Mysterious is hard at work, smoking one cigarette after another. And who knows how many he has already put away. As I ship these pizzas off, the Mysterious Chainsmoker without fail resides in the parking lot pacing, a cigarette stuffed in his mouth every single time I return to the store. Five hours he stands there, at least, smoking butt after butt, while the rest of the world revolves around him. He never checks his phone, he never even glances up to make sure that the sun hasn't exploded yet. Five hours without doing either of those things would be enough to drive a boy like me mad.

Perhaps the Mysterious is mad, or perhaps we are the mad ones, running around doing what we think we were put here to do, while really we should be pacing in an Amherst parking lot smoking cigarettes like our lives depended on it.

The Mysterious Chainsmoker has a story, I believe we all do. While we are all so intricate and unique, we all have so much in common too. I hope that this ordinary community college newspaper can tell some of the stories like The Mysterious Chainsmokers of the world. I hope a bunch of ordinary students can read these stories and realize just how lucky they are to be able to learn from these insignificant Chainsmokers. I hope they can be filled with awe and wonder by the usual as well as with each other. I hope they are encouraged to never stop questioning. I hope that this magazine can provide a medium to unify the familiar; to give everyone the opportunity to learn from all of the characters in their life. If it can do that, even for one seemingly ordinary individual, then it will be successful, and the newspaper will have some significance. Or maybe not.



Prometheus Press Staff

Robert (Cowboy) Calafell Editor.
"...I never said that!"

Mariah Willor Creator
"Ask a stupid question, and you get a stupid answer"

Stacy Blackadar Jittery journalist.
"They stopped me from putting memes in this paper"

Elaina Gibb-Buursma Jittery journalist.
"Originality is tough"

Ceci Wood Caffeinated critic.
"How'd you know I like Harry Potter?"

Samantha Wood Advisor.
"You're journalists now!"

Zac Poulin Founder, creative director, genius.
"Don't think about it to hard"

Submissions and new members welcome

Comics, art, literature, stories, anything you can think of

Email:

Prometheuspress@stuemail.ccc.mass.edu

Business Bunny & Tuxedo Cat *Student comics* By Michelle



Where Have All the Clubs Gone?

By Elaina Gibb-Buursma

Did you know that GCC once had golf and softball teams? The sports editor of the 1983 "No Name" paper describes the sports column as covering everything from "Karate to Ice Hockey." Current clubs have such limited participation, so what has changed?

Stacy Blackadar, leader of the Social Justice Club, says that "the pandemic impacted the way people think about education," adding that "we are all trying to make it and get by." Blackadar makes a fair point, with the pandemic fewer people are on campus and when they are, their focus is attending classes. Many people also seem to feel that joining a club would be an obligation, not an opportunity to learn something new and meet others. For some, it is a vicious cycle. Being one of a few members in a club can feel like a lot of pressure, so people opt out. This causes a ripple effect.

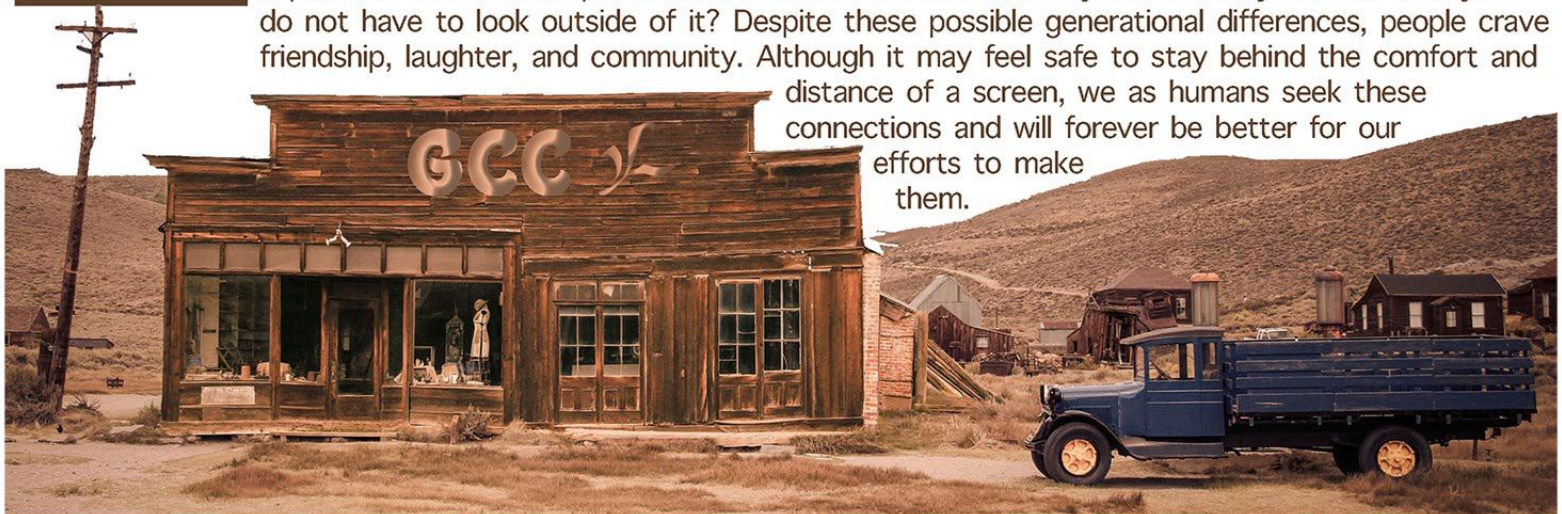
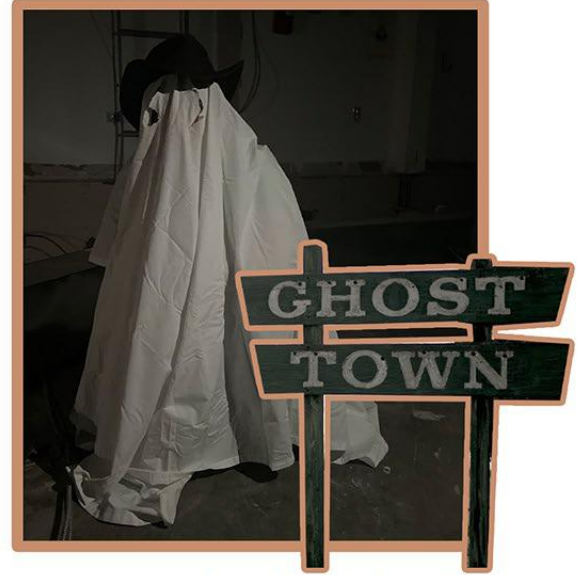
Felicity Evans, the remaining member of GCC's Pride Alliance from years past says that she thinks "clubs are a fun way to spend time," and "we definitely need more in-person socialization after the past eighteen months." Evans is currently reaching out to students in hopes of restarting the Pride Alliance. When asked why she believed that participation in clubs is so low, she said she thinks "people's time is filled. Everyone is working hard to make up for the time that we lost due to covid, and they are focusing on other activities" which take away from free time.

Like Evans, many club leaders start their clubs feeling sure that they are catering to a common need or interest. Blackadar says that her club continues due to "obligation" to the community, adding that she wants "GCC to have a space for social justice and I want aspects of GCC to be impacted and understood by students (like police on campus and policies)."

Mary McEntee, the student activities coordinator, looks at low participation from a logistical perspective. She says that "class schedules are staggered so people have different schedules that make it difficult to make meetings." She adds that her office and the Student Activities Office "have been under construction since April," and there is not a central place for students to meet.

"Humans seek these connections"

These reasons for lack of participation give logistical answers, but is there a broader reason that people are less interested in clubs? In the 1970s, GCC had as many as seventy hopefuls try out for the varsity football team. Logistical reasons do not seem to explain this drastic comparison between then and 2021. Many people look at Generation Z and the younger Millennials as being less community oriented than past generations. In an era where so much is specifically tailored to us, are answers like "none of the clubs really interest me" common? Is it possible that friendship and entertainment are also so easily accessed by devices that you do not have to look outside of it? Despite these possible generational differences, people crave friendship, laughter, and community. Although it may feel safe to stay behind the comfort and distance of a screen, we as humans seek these connections and will forever be better for our efforts to make them.



Wifi Out Of Whack

By Stacy Blackadar

Why is it so difficult to connect to the wifi on campus and what can we as a community do about it?

Students do not have a positive outlook on GCC internet. Student Andria Ames recalls, "It kinda sucks. It's really slow and it disconnects at the worst moments, in the middle of a timed test or a zoom meeting." Fellow student Tahmie Der has a similar take, "It's a pain and takes time from school work." For students like Tahmie, who have an hour and a half commute to school, not being able to optimize their experience on the school wifi means losing the opportunity to complete work while on campus. Being back on campus after a global pandemic requires some adjusting. One adjustment includes relying on public wireless internet after a year of high speed home internet. When coming to a school, many expect high quality internet, and students believe that GCC wifi falls short. Tahmie added, "I feel like they never tell us how to use the school wifi." This article is here to do just that. How can you use the school internet to the best of your ability? Is this a GCC problem or a western Massachusetts problem? Let's get into it.

"Turning your wifi off, waiting a moment, and turning it back on can greatly improve your experience."

The best guy to ask about school wifi is Stephen (Steve) Harris, the GCC Director of Network Services. He has worked at GGC for 15 years, but he's been in the IT industry for a lot longer than that as a mainframe programmer. Steve reports that the wifi on campus services anywhere from 400-1000 devices a day. He believes that 75% of your wifi experience on campus is governed by your device. Meaning, he can attempt to make your device pick up the optimal wifi, but your device has to receive it. Part of the issue is something called wifi stickiness. Many devices auto pair to wifi while people walk through the building. When you get on campus, the device will link to the first router it sees, and by the time you get to your class, it may still be connected to that router even though there's a better router closer to you. To fix this, turning your wifi off, waiting a moment, and turning it back on can greatly improve your experience. Another thing Harris noted, is that the best wifi service is located in student occupied shared spacing. The closer you are to the library, the dining commons, or the front entrance, the better service you'll receive. Due to teachers having wired access to the internet in their offices, the wifi is optimized to student areas who don't have similar resources. The closer toward the front of the school, away from the mountain and concrete, the better. Wifi is impacted by human bodies, infrastructure, and geography. However, if you're turning your wifi on and off while seated in a

shared space on campus and you still can't get good service, let the IT department know. If there's a dark spot on campus, they can't fix it unless they're aware of it. Another question students had was related to the authentication page. You may experience faster internet connection by being prioritized if you fully log in, but you also probably won't notice a difference. The authentication process takes exactly eleven seconds before you can access the web, so no, refreshing won't help.

Do GCC Students have access to better internet at home? Representative Paul Mark Rep. Paul Mark, 2nd Berkshire District, who is not only a professor at GCC but also the 2nd Berkshire District representative to the Statehouse; his district includes 16 communities in Berkshire and Franklin counties. Paul Mark explained a program that gets better internet out to rural areas, "The state put up a lot of hot spots in rural areas to help when schools closed so students could get wifi service they wouldn't normally have. For ten years now, at least, there has been this broadband project." The goal was to get 96% broadband coverage in each town. The Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) confirmed this, stating 35 out of 54 Massachusetts towns have already accomplished this. According to Paul Mark, every community has a plan on getting service, and with the infrastructure funding coming from the federal government, more funding can be provided by the federal government and not the state. While some of this is great, the 4% of towns are not completely covered.

According to MBI, GCC has access to fiber and one gig internet. The administration has gone through leadership changes, which possibly means a formal request must be made with the new administration. As of this week, staff members have been asked to report more wireless issues. Students need to speak up about their experiences with the wifi and advocate for more school resources going to improving the internet quality. Issues can be introduced at the Student Senate. Including the legislative delegation would also improve the chances of getting more funding and getting through the red tape necessary to get better access. Community colleges mean community issues which require community solutions. If we all work together rather than we can make a better higher education experience for all.

Student Elsa Manning Ross reflects on how the current wifi impacts her day to day. "I live in rural Vermont, so my internet at home is already spotty. The GCC internet being unable to connect to my computer makes it impossible to get stuff done during school hours."

GCC Has 2 Types of Wifi

2.4gh

5gh

2-3 channels
Stronger/Louder
Slower

8 channels
Weaker
Faster

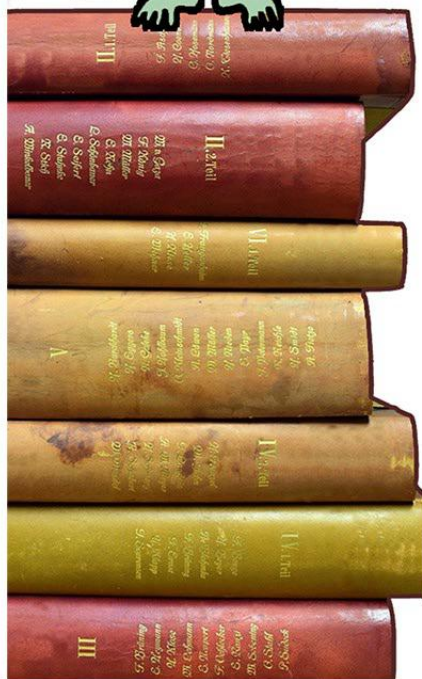
“Lit” Literature



Submit your
poems/stories/
literature to:
PrometheusPress@Gcc.Mass.Edu

November a haiku by Steve Poulin

The black dog walks fast.
This morning; flakes of snow soak
into her wet coat



Midnight Marathon

Hear my breathing, see my power. Let my eyes tell
you the story of my soul and who I am to be.

I am a survivor I have faced hardship and turmoil,
I am proof, the proof as profound as it may be, is me,
standing before you,
smiling,
listing,
breathing,
living.

in my travels I have learned many things from many
people

Stories that amaze and inspire. shared by many mouths,
and many voices.

I am history in the making as well as memory. I am
what allows people to learn from mistakes that were
made before.

I am your heroes who stood like statues when all seemed
lost.

I am your writer that made works of literature that
would continue to inspire people hundreds of years
after they were nothing but dust.

I am the beautiful sunrise that motivates you to
get out of bed and start every day with new fire and
vigor.

See me, see how I share my influence, to create,
to lead and empower.

I run, I run all day and all night, with speed that
hermies could only dream of.

Over mountain, and over plane. I race to keep the
world full of amazement.

For children unborn and elders in their twilight,
let them see that there is so much more to the world
then what is plainly visable.

how there is beauty in madness and terror in sanity.

For those who are willing to open their body and soul
to my presence, to see how I see, to inspire as I do,
to find beauty when there is none.

I run,
I hope,
I observe,
and I dream.

This is what makes life worth living.

This is what makes my heart yurn for the beauty that
is in every single soul.

This is what make me a midnight marathon runner.

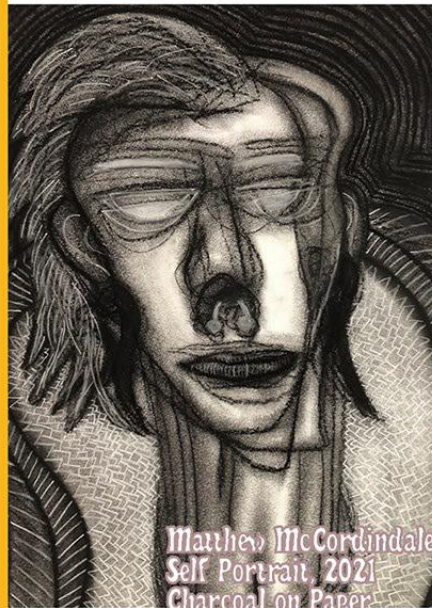
-Rob "Cowboy" Calafell
the third

Did you know that the GCC Foundation has scholarship money available for students like you?

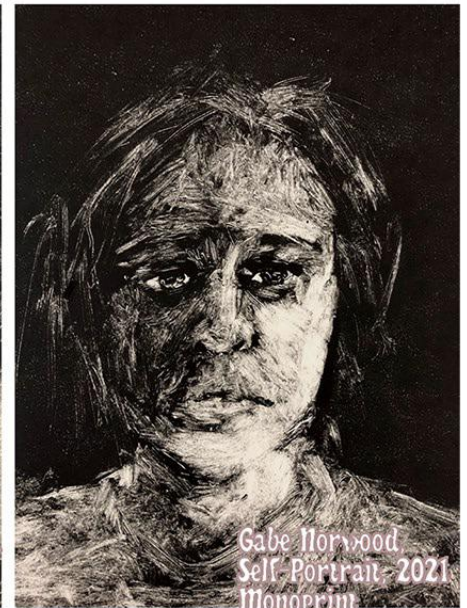
Beginning in January 2022 the Foundation will be awarding more than \$120,000 in over 125 scholarships to current GCC students. Watch your student email and look for flyers in the hallways for details about how to apply. The application web page will open January 24, 2022.

For more information on scholarships contact
acarlin@gcc.mass.edu

"The financial help will allow me to continue paying for college and minimize stress as I juggle my life of being a working student. A scholarship will allow me to be a step closer to achieving my goals and to keep dreaming big."



Matthew McCordindale
 Self-Portrait, 2021
 Charcoal on Paper



Gabe Norwood
 Self-Portrait, 2021
 Monoprint

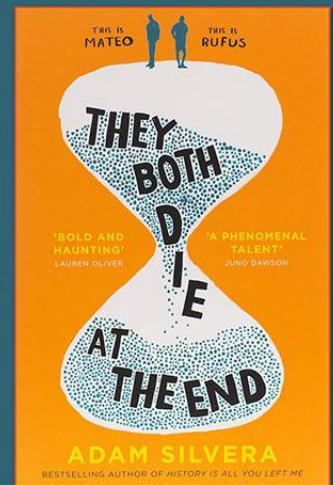
Criticism Corner

I Read "They Both Die at the End" So You Don't Have To!

By Ceci Wood

I have always loved reading because I can get lost in another reality. From tagging along with the Golden Trio to dancing the night away at one of Gatsby's famous parties. I wanted to turn this love into something fun and hopefully beneficial for others. With that said, I present to you, this review column. I plan on reading popular books, whether the books be from BookTok, my own personal TBR, or submissions from you, the readers. I will then give a brief review based on my thoughts and opinions letting you know if I think the book is worth the read, hence where the name of this column came from. For the first ever review, I decided to go with, "They Both Die at the End" by Adam Silvera.

What would you do if you received a call letting you know that you will die sometime in the next 24 hours? Well, unfortunately for Mateo and Rufus they both received that call on the same day. Mateo, ever the introvert, and Rufus, ever the extrovert, connect via The Last Friend app to live their last day to the fullest, together.



3.5 out of 5
 Flaming Heads

"Two dudes met. They fell in love. They lived. That's our story." p.345



"Death-Cast is calling with the warning of a lifetime- I'm going to die today." p.3

While this book was decent, it will not be making its way to my favorites list. If this book is next up on your TBR, you could push it to the back burner. Although Silvera does an excellent job in making his readers fall in love with Mateo and Rufus, and having us think these two can defy the odds we were warned of in the title, the writing style is a bit juvenile. I found myself losing interest every so often not very engaged until the last 70 pages or so. The pace is not consistent. The inevitable ending you emotionally prepare yourself for is quite anticlimactic as well. For all the unknown and adrenaline those last 70 pages do bring, I was shocked and left thinking "that was it?" However, maybe that was Silvera's point, not everyone can or needs to die a heroic death to leave an impact. After reflecting and reviewing, I would give this book 3 out of 5 stars overall, and 4 out of 5 stars for the ease of reading.

Please email prometheuspress@gcc.mass.edu with any book suggestions you would like me to review, and you might just see it in the next issue!



Orange Cookies (Angette)

3 1/2 cups flour.
 3 1/2 Teaspoon baking powder.
 1/2 Teaspoon baking soda.
 3 eggs.
 1/2 cup veg oil.
 1/2 cup Sugar.
 1/2 cup Orange Juice
 1/2 Teaspoon Lemon Juice

Combine all dry ingredients blend eggs, oil, sugar. Add juices add dry ingredients set in refrigerator covered. Use little at a time. Roll dough in hands. Place on cookie sheet 1/2 in apart. Bake in 350-70 about 12 mins.

This is Stacy's Great Aunt's recipe from 1955!

The Writescape Club

snowc@ecc.mass.edu

By Cindy Snow



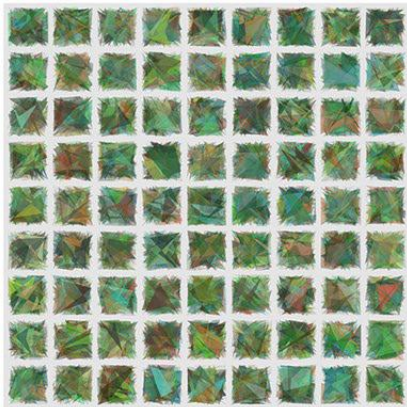
Johanna Hoogendyk,
Portrait of Ella

Writescape, a GCC Club, meets each Wednesday at noon. We read our creative writing to one another and get feedback, and we sometimes write together using prompts. In November, our club president, Amber-Lynn Gubitose, suggested we use a painting by a GCC student as a prompt ("Portrait of Ella," by Johanna Hoogendyk, which is hanging in the GCC Dining Commons). We looked closely at a picture of the painting, which Amber had on her phone. Without seeing its title, we did a short bout of writing, and we shared the work with one another. Then, we did a bit of editing. Here are a few samples of that work. A photo of the painting is attached.

"A Contemplation on Decisions Made"

by Jameson Cypz

My back hurts. A hard wooden chair is more of a torture than a functional piece of furniture. Who ever thought this was a good idea? Gotta sit still. Even worse. No fidgeting, or I get a scolding! Quite the morose subject I've become. Now, I'm no artist, but this is taking ages! I've heard the saying a hundred times, but can we rush art just this once?! Hard chair, artist staring me down constantly. My ass hurts. This is not worth the \$50. Who ever thought this was a good idea?



Paul Lindale, Untitled, 2021
Computational Art



Jen Simms, Untitled, 2021
Tapestry Weaving

Are you Losine your dammed mind?

By
Mariah
Willor

poof wow, this article has cured my depression, why didn't I think of that?

ha-ha, not what I'm saying, smartass. My point is: YOU MATTER. I know you don't consciously think that you do, so I'm reminding you. Take a minute to reflect on your feelings.

eww... too touchy feely. Emotions are for wimps!

#1: Stop hating on yourself

Just radical acceptance and self love, babe. Any decision you've made, good or bad has led you to where you are now. You are under no obligation to anyone but yourself.

#2: Gain some perspective

Acknowledge your pain and simultaneously appreciate what you have. Sure, you failed that test, but isn't it swell you aren't on fire right now?

#3: Be Present

If you aren't able to be happy right now, how will you be happy later? Do what feels right, RIGHT NOW. Maybe that looks like homework or maybe it looks like getting a tattoo of an iguana.

DRINK WATER!
It helps. Chug-a-lug!

The Prometheus Press
Does NOT really
recommend getting an
iguana tattoo!

